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relates that one of the most ill had but one wish—that of spending another Christmas there. He will hardly attain that.

The favorite of the hospital is Kristine G. She has been blind for twelve years, and her appearance is not very attractive. She looked dreadful when she was laid up. But she is the bright head of the hospital, always happy and clever at tale telling, while the others gather around her attentively listening. She even composes psalms, which are irreproachable in metrical respect. In these psalms she chants the praises of Paradise and of the hospital, which for her appears to be a terrestrial foretaste of heavenly bliss.

Of course the discipline and cleanliness must be strict in a hospital of this kind, but the lepers in Iceland do not shun same as a prison.

On the contrary, the applications for admission are so numerous that it is impossible to receive all. There were, for instance, 7 expectants on the list.

To begin with, the inhabitants of Reykjavik objected strongly to the establishing of a hospital in the vicinity of the town, but this animosity has entirely vanished, and they now visit the patients without fear for contagion.

* * * * *

From the above an opinion can be formed as to the work and mission of the hospital, but there is still something which must be pointed out. The work now taken up has brought about mutual understanding between Denmark and Iceland. In the bridge building, the establishment of the Laugarnæs hospital has been an important factor.

In this work the Icelanders have felt the good intentions of Denmark and same have been appreciated by the whole population.

* * * * *

In connection with the report upon leprosy in Iceland, it may be proper to mention something about this disease in Denmark. In Copenhagen there are 4 leprosy patients and in the country 2. In Denmark leprosy does not belong to those few diseases which are subjected to public treatment. Iceland has its own leprosy law, which, however, is not compulsory at the Laugarnæs hospital. But the conditions in Denmark are not so favorable, or rather unfavorable, for the spreading of this disease as in Iceland. That leprosy is so prevalent on that island, must, to cite Dr. Bjornson, be imputed to the uncleanness and grotesque carelessness of its population.

VICTOR E. NELSON,
United States Consul.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

ITALY.

Report from Naples—Smallpox still present.

NAPLES, ITALY, *September 23, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended September 21, 1901, the following ships were inspected:

September 16, the Danish steamship *Cimbria*, bound in ballast for Galveston, Tex.

September 18, the steamship *Lombardia*, of the Italian General Navigation Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 759 steerage passengers and 250 pieces

of large baggage. One thousand and twenty pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

September 19, the steamship *Trave*, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 316 steerage passengers and 75 pieces of large baggage. Four hundred and eighty pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

September 20, the steamship *Calabria*, of the Anchor Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 501 steerage passengers and 107 pieces of large baggage. Five hundred and eighty-six pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

Smallpox in Naples.

The situation as regards smallpox in Naples continues about the same as when the last weekly report was made. I was unable to obtain a report of the exact number of cases or deaths in time for this letter. I have therefore withheld the weekly abstract of bills of health, but will forward it as soon as I receive the figures referred to.

Plague in Egypt.

Under date of September 16, 1901, it was reported that there were 11 cases of bubonic plague in Egypt, 6 at Mit Gamr, 4 at Alexandria, and 1 at Benha, all natives. Since April 7, 1901, when the prevalence began, there have been in all 155 cases and 74 deaths.

Respectfully,

J. M. EAGER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report on the plague situation at Naples.

NAPLES, ITALY, September 26, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that there are at present numerous foci of plague at Naples. The diagnosis has been confirmed by bacteriological methods.

On the 24th instant, I was informed that 2 stevedores, who had been employed at the bonded warehouses at the Punto Franco, in the most active part of the port of Naples, had been taken sick at their homes at Barra and Poggioreale in the outlying parts of Naples. The clinical diagnosis of bubonic plague was made and the stevedores and all the members of their families were transferred to the isolation station on the island of Nisida.

* * * * *

I am sending you to-day the following telegram in partial cipher: "Plague is now present in Naples. Diagnosis confirmed by bacteriological examination. Regulations observed."

Regarding the present condition of affairs, the royal Italian authorities have informed me that plague has developed in several widely removed localities in the city, that Naples is to be considered a plague-infected port. All the cases are, it is asserted, traceable to the Government warehouses at the Punto Franco.

There have been, up to the present time, 11 cases, in all probability plague, with 4 deaths, and, in addition, there are numerous suspected